



COUNTY OF DUTCHESS
BOARD OF HEALTH

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 20th, 2025

The regular monthly meeting of the Dutchess County Board of Health was held virtually on Microsoft Teams and at the Dutchess County Department of Health (DOH), 85 Civic Center Plaza – Suite 106, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 on the above date.

PRESENT: Jeanean Aming, Psych. NP
Amy Cocina, MD
Alexander Cohen, MD (Virtual)
Laura Fil, MD
John Fallon, NP
Melissa Nelson-Perron, MD, President

DOH STAFF: Livia Santiago-Rosado, MD, MPH, FACEP, DOH Commissioner
Anthony Ruggiero, MPA, Assistant Commissioner
Jenean M. Williams-Green

ABSENT: Doug McHoul, Legislative Rep.
David McNary, Vice President
Rachana Tyagi, MD

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. Nelson-Perron called the meeting to order at 4:22 p.m.

DECLARATION OF A QUORUM – A quorum was declared.

MINUTES: The minutes for October 16, 2025, were approved with no corrections. The motion was made by John Fallon, seconded by Dr. Laura Fil and approved unanimously.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Dr. Santiago reported the following updates:

- **Budget:** The Budget proposal before the County Legislature will be held next week.
- **Fit Dutchess:** The Department of Health has applied for funding through the Creating Healthy Schools and Communities grant, which supports healthier environments in schools and underserved communities. Dr. Santiago mentioned how well current initiatives align with the grant's goals, positioning us to effectively expand the work. If awarded, the grant would provide over \$300,000 annually for five years.
 - **After-School Cooking Program:** In October, we successfully completed the Dutchess Youth Kitchen Project, which was well received. PHIL interns collected valuable data, and the program proved both educational and enjoyable for participants. Building on its success, we're now in early discussions with the Poughkeepsie City School District to launch a middle school pilot (Part B).

- A Fit Dutchess Stakeholders meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 21st, where the Poughkeepsie Farm Project will present their program toward the end of the meeting.
- **Clinic Billing:** The Department of Health is moving forward with efforts to establish billing within the clinic. Recent training sessions revealed some knowledge gaps among staff, particularly around billing procedures. To address this, we're exploring additional training opportunities and working to troubleshoot any gaps.
- **Mobile Health Unit:** The MHU's final event is today (November 20th), after which it will be stored for the winter. DOH staff will continue outreach at community sites. Also exploring new educational opportunities, including sexual health programming, based on recent interest... Dr. Nelson-Perron asked how event requests are handled. Dr. Santiago explained that requests come through her community connections, the DOH website, or via healthinfo@dutchessny.gov, where requests are routed to the appropriate staff.
- **Health Fair:** Tentative date for this year's Health Fair is April 11th at Dutchess Community College. Also exploring other locations.
- **Colgate Van:** Dr. Santiago met with a representative from Colgate, which runs the Bright Smiles, Bright Futures program through its oral care van. Colgate has nine locations nationwide, and one of them serves Dutchess County. The program provides children with a dental report card after their visit. Colgate is working in partnership with Sun River Health and is available for two Saturdays in February. Also, met with Touro Dental College.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: The Letter of Support for the Emergency Response Department was sent to the County Executive's Office. Dr. Nelson-Perron mentioned the importance of the timing of this letter as Northwell and Nuvance are now sending ambulances to help fill gaps in emergency services, which is a positive step for the community. This support is especially meaningful after recent discussions about long EMS transport times and challenges in emergency care. We're hopeful this will lead to real improvements.

NEW BUSINESS:

Board of Health Meeting schedule for 2026: Jenean will update the schedule for 2026 and email.

2026 Board Officers: The Board will need to vote in the January meeting for President/VicePresident positions.

2026 Public Health Partnership Awards: Will begin the nominating process early January/February.

Presenters for upcoming meetings: There was a brief discussion about ideas for presentations in 2026. Dr. Santiago suggested inviting speakers from the Department of Health and from outside the department. She shared information about the Eastern Dutchess Rural Health Network, which focuses on rural health needs in eastern Dutchess County. Although the county is considered urban, some areas still lack support. Dr. Santiago suggested inviting a speaker from the network, since rural health is an important and timely topic.

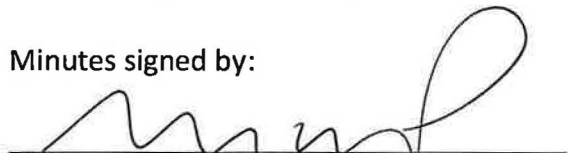
OLD BUSINESS: Discussion regarding virtual attendance counting toward a quorum and malpractice coverage for volunteer physicians, was tabled as Dr. Tyagi was absent from the meeting.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT: Doug McHoul sent a message commenting that the Commissioner did a good job presenting the budget hearing. He believes the budget will be fully approved, unless something unexpected happens.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: The next meeting will be on **Thursday, December 18, 2025, at 4:00 pm**

A motion was made by Dr. Laura Fil to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jenean Aming, and approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 pm.

Minutes signed by:



President/Vice President Signature

Jenean M. Williams-Green
Recording Secretary Signature

2025 EXECUTIVE POSITIONS FOR THE BOARD OF HEALTH

Dr. Melissa Nelson-Perron – President
David McNary – Vice President